

ALL IN COLOUR - MAKES LEARNING A JOY

Once Upon a Time

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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Tiny Tom Thumb



1. When tiny Tom Thumb bravely set out to ride with the King in the forest he was mounted on a trained white rat, and he felt happy and proud until all of a sudden a cat jumped out of the bushes. The white rat gave a loud squeak and tried to jump aside but the cat was even quicker. It snatched up the rat in its mouth, then carried it—and Tom—up into a tree.



2. Meanwhile, the King and his riding-party had realised that Tom Thumb was missing. "How foolish of us to take our eyes off him," said the King. "It is so easy for one as small as him to get lost among the tall grass. Search around for him." Several of the King's companions got off their horses to look among the shrubs and grass and tree-roots but did not find him.



3. Hoping that Tom Thumb would come to no harm and find his way back to the Palace, the King and his riding-party moved on. They did not think of looking high up in the trees, where they might have seen Tom in great danger. The white rat made its escape by scampering along a branch, but poor Tom faced the cat alone.

4. So brave was little Tom Thumb and so swiftly did he keep the sharp sword flashing in the air that the cat decided to turn and run away. With a howl it suddenly turned to one side and leapt off the branch, turning and twisting in the air as cats do, and safely reaching the ground. Tom watched it go with a sigh.



5. It was one thing to get rid of the cat—but another thing to get down to the ground. Tom was so high up and the trunk of the tree so slippery that he saw no way of climbing down. "After saving myself from the cat it would be foolish to risk a fall from such a height as this," he thought. "But what shall I do?" There was nobody around to help and Tom felt quite miserable.



7. So, thanks to some magic wishing by the fairy godmother, Tom's father decided to take a walk through that very part of the thick forest, and he looked up just at the right spot to see the tiny lad. Quickly he clambered up the branches and reached out his hand to pick Tom up. "What a lucky find indeed," he chuckled.

Next week . . . the wonderful story of "The Water Babies" and a LOVELY FREE GIFT!



6. Then suddenly there was a glow of colour in the sky and his fairy godmother appeared. "Dear little Tom, you really are in great trouble," she said. "You have lost your parents, lost the King and now you are stuck in a tree." "Please help me," asked Tom. "I cannot get down." "For being so brave I will see that all your problems are solved at one time," said the fairy.



8. The farmer took Tom Thumb home. "I've found him," he said to his wife. "I've found the little lad safe and sound." They put Tom Thumb on the table and listened while he told them of his great adventures. With their faces shining with happiness they listened and made sure they never lost Tom Thumb again!



1. The Gold and Blue Macaw has beautiful, brightly-coloured feathers, but, like all the parrots, it has a voice like an ear-splitting screech. Macaws are big, bright-coloured birds with long tails and they live in the forests of Central and Southern America.



2. The Red and Yellow Macaws make vivid splashes of colour in the forests. They often find it easier to climb from tree to tree instead of flying, as their toes are in pairs, two at the front and two at the back. This makes it easy for them to grasp branches and twigs.

Our "Allsorts" pages this week show you more members of the Parrot family.

All Sorts of



5. Military Macaws are common in the rain-forests of Mexico. Most Macaws go around in pairs and they fly over the trees, screeching loudly. A Macaw will often pick a nut or berry to eat with its beak and then hold the food firmly in its toes, while it takes a bite.



6. The Hyacinth Macaw has a much larger beak than any other Macaw. Its beak is so strong that it can easily crack open the hard shells of Brazil nuts with one crunch. An angry Macaw, attacking an enemy with its big, powerful beak, can be quite dangerous.



3. The Sulphur-crested Cockatoo lives in Australia. It eats roots, which it digs up with its powerful beak, but it also does great damage by eating young corn. The Cockatoo is the only member of the Parrot family with a crest on its head.



4. The Great Black Cockatoo is a big bird, over two feet long, and has coal-black feathers. Like the rest of the Cockatoos, they are noisy birds and they like to travel around in groups, flying over the trees, or perching on the branches all together.

Macaws and Cockatoos



7. The Leadbeater's Cockatoo is found all over Australia, except in the very dry central part. Cockatoos, like the rest of the parrots, lay their eggs in holes in the trees or rocks. The eggs are always white. The baby birds, born naked, soon grow tiny, fluffy feathers.



8. The Roseate Cockatoo is very common in Australia. Flocks of these birds fly around, or settle on the ground searching for seeds and roots to eat. Unlike animals, which can only move the lower jaw, these birds can move both top and bottom parts of the beak.



BRER RABBIT

Brer Fox tries to steal Brer Rabbit's lucky charm . . . part 2. By Barbara Hayes.

NOW, if you read the Brer Rabbit story last week, you will know that Brer Fox tried to steal Brer Rabbit's lucky rabbit's foot, which was made of china.

Brer Fox invited the whole rabbit family out of the house to a swimming party. Then, while they were in the water, he searched through their clothes, and while they were eating tea he sneaked back and searched the house, but the lucky rabbit's foot was not to be found anywhere.

Brer Fox rushed back to the woodlands so furious that he wanted to tear the rabbits into little pieces, but by that time they had all hidden and slipped back to their home without being caught by Brer Fox.

What a laugh they all had.

Brer Fox didn't give up so easily.

He went back and sat outside Brer Rabbit's gate.

"Brer Rabbit, are you at home?" he called.

"Surely, Brer Fox, surely!"

"I want a word with you, Brer Rabbit," said Brer Fox.

"Surely, Brer Fox, surely!" answered Brer Rabbit from the window.

"You know your lucky rabbit's foot, Brer Rabbit?"

"Surely, Brer Fox, surely."

"Well, it isn't in your house, Brer Rabbit."

"Surely, Brer Fox, surely."

"And you didn't take it swimming with you."

"Surely, Brer Fox, surely."

"And none of your family took it swimming either."

"Surely, Brer Fox, surely."

"Where is it?" asked Brer Fox.

Brer Rabbit scratched his head and pretended to think and then he said:

"Well, I know where it is sure enough, but I don't think I ought to tell you, Brer Fox."

"You can tell me, Brer Rabbit."

So Brer Rabbit said, "Well, I have answered your questions mighty nicely up

till now, Brer Fox. So will you answer one for me?"

"Surely, Brer Rabbit, surely."

"Why do you want to know where my lucky rabbit's foot is, Brer Fox?"

Brer Fox was in a fix.

He just didn't know what to say.

How could he tell Brer Rabbit that he wanted to know where the lucky rabbit's foot was so that he could steal it?

So he hummed and he hawed and at last he said, "I want to know where it is so that I can give it a good clean for you, my old chum, Brer Rabbit." And he smiled his wide gleaming smile.

But Brer Rabbit said, "Thank you kindly, Brer Fox, but my lucky rabbit's foot doesn't need cleaning. So you can go away."

Brer Fox was furious.

In fact, Brer Fox was so caught up with his rage and his fury that he didn't notice Brer Badger, the postman, coming up the road with his sack of letters and parcels. Right up to Brer Rabbit's front gate went Brer Badger and, before Brer Fox could blink, a parcel was handed in to Brer Rabbit.

"Here you are, Brer Rabbit, my lucky old friend," said good-natured Brer Badger. "I've brought you a parcel. It's a nice parcel, too—done up neatly and on the front it says Handle With Care. I suppose you can't guess what might be in it, can you?"

Old Brer Badger was always very curious about parcels and letters he delivered to the people and usually hung around until they were opened.

Brer Fox was curious, too.

"A parcel, Brer Rabbit?" he said. "What can be in it?"

"Oh, just something I was expecting," Brer Rabbit chuckled. "I'll show you what it is, if you like."

"I can hardly wait," said Brer Badger, the postman, twitching his whiskers in great excitement.

Brer Rabbit tore off the wrapping and held up—the lucky rabbit's foot.

"Here is my lucky charm," he laughed.



"I posted it to myself before we went swimming, so we didn't have to take it with us and we didn't leave it in the house, but it was quite safe. And now I have it safely back again."

And Brer Fox was so furious to think how he had been tricked that he didn't stop grinding his teeth in rage for a month.

Meet Brer Rabbit again next week and get your **SUPER FREE GIFT!**

Super News
3 FREE
GIFTS!

for readers of "Once Upon A Time"

Start by getting your **FIRST Free Gift** next week—then get your copies of "Once Upon A Time" for **TWO** more Super Gifts in the following two weeks.

EXCITING AND WONDERFUL NEWS FROM YOUR EDITOR

Dear Boys and Girls,

I have something so thrilling to tell you that I feel like shouting it at the top of my voice . . . in next week's "Once Upon A Time" there will be a delightful **FREE GIFT FOR EVERY READER!** You must not miss it, so make sure NOW that your newsagent knows that you will be wanting a copy—and get all your friends to do the same. And there are **TWO MORE FREE GIFTS** coming as well!

Your Friend, The Editor.

The Useful Coconut Palm

The tall, graceful coconut palm, which grows best on warm islands, is one of the most useful trees in the world. Its huge leaves are used for making roofs and its fruit, the coconut itself, is valuable in many ways. The natives of the islands are very skilled at climbing the trunk of the tree to gather the coconuts when they are ripe. In some parts of the world, monkeys are trained to climb up and throw the nuts to the ground.

When picked, the coconut has a greenish-brown outer husk. This husk is split open, as you can see in one of the small pictures, and the bristly nut is lined inside with a thick, white coating. This is the part that is eaten, or sometimes grated and used in cooking—when it is called desiccated coconut. Before opening the nut, you make a hole in it and pour out a milky fluid which is sweet and delicious to drink.

The outer husk is not thrown away. It is made of strong fibres and when these are separated they can be used for making doormats. The fibres also make a special kind of rope called coir rope. It is strong but will also float on water. Ships find this useful when sending a mooring-line from one to another. Coconut oil, which can be squeezed from the nut, is used in cooking and the making of soap.



FAMOUS NAMES

Facts to interest you about people, things and places.



1. **Saladin.** He was the great leader of the Moslems, who fought against King Richard the First of England and the Crusaders. King Richard won many battles but failed in his aim to recapture Jerusalem from the Moslems. In March 1193, soon after King Richard left for Europe, Saladin died.



2. **The Globe Theatre.** This was one of the first London theatres, built by James Burbage at Southwark in 1599. Shakespeare put on many of his plays there. It was an eight-sided building, made of wood, and got its name from its sign of Atlas, supporting the globe, representing the World, on his shoulders.



3. **Guy Fawkes.** A soldier, who came from a Yorkshire family, Guy Fawkes was one of a band of conspirators who planned to blow up the House of Lords on 5th November 1605. He was arrested in the cellar under the House of Lords, where the gunpowder was, and executed for treason in January 1606.



4. **Long John Silver.** This one-legged pirate was one of the central characters in Robert Louis Stevenson's book "Treasure Island". He joined the crew of the Hispaniola as cook, but secretly planned to lead a mutiny and seize the treasure once it had been found and dug up.

This is a Memory Test. When you have read the story, turn to page 16 and try to answer the questions.

Signs of the Zodiac

AQUARIUS

(January 21st—February 19th)

Do you believe in foretelling the future? For almost since the world began, people have looked for good luck signs and bad luck signs. They looked up to the sky and found twelve groups, or constellations, of stars and gave them names. The twelve names are the Signs of the Zodiac. When the sun, the moon and the planets (including our own Earth) pass through these groups at different times of the year, people believe that the future can be foretold.

The first Sign of the Zodiac is Aquarius, which affects persons whose birthday falls between January 21st and February 19th. Each Zodiac sign has an interesting story, and we will tell you one each month, beginning with Aquarius:

Ganymede, the son of King Laomedon of Troy, was a youth of such grace and beauty that Jupiter wanted him as his cup-bearer. One evening, as the boy wandered alone on the forecourt of his father's palace, the sky became dark and stormy and a great eagle swooped down. It picked up Ganymede and carried him to Olympus, the home of the ancient Greek gods. There he became the cup-bearer, or water-carrier, to Jupiter. In return for Ganymede, it is said that Jupiter sent King Laomedon a fine collection of horses.

On the Aquarius sign, which you can see two cherubs holding in the picture, there are two wavy red lines. These represent water or part of a stream. It is said that when the sun is in this part of the heavens, passing through the Aquarius group of stars, the weather will be rainy.

**IT'S SURE TO BE A LUCKY
WEEK NEXT WEEK
FOR ALL READERS OF
"ONCE UPON A TIME"!**

No matter what your birth-date or Zodiac Sign is, you WILL be lucky. Do you know why? Because in next week's issue there will be a lovely FREE GIFT for everybody! And there are more to come in the two weeks following. Be sure you do not miss "Once Upon A Time" next week and tell your friends, so that they can be lucky, too!





The Magic Sweet Shop



1. Many years ago in the town of Oodleburg, which is down in a Swiss valley, there was a sweet-shop. On Saturday mornings Hans and his sister Greta used to go in to spend their pocket money. "Oh dear, what shall we choose today?" wondered Hans.



2. He and Greta looked around at the tempting things on the counter. "What shall it be—chocolate drops, bullseyes, fruit gums or peppermint rock?" asked Hans. Greta wanted peppermint rock, so Hans picked up a stick and handed over the money.



3. When they left the shop and were outside, Hans looked at what they had bought. "Half for you and half for me, Greta," he said. "But first I had better make sure we have got the right flavour. This stick of rock looks different from usual."



4. When Hans put the end of the stick of rock to his lips he found it had a mixed-up flavour of all the many sweets put together. But before he could say anything a strange thing happened. The trees all around began to shed huge, giant sweets!



5. There were enormous bars of chocolate, big toffees and huge sticks of rock. "How did that happen?" gasped Greta. "I must admit that I was wishing for more than just a single piece of peppermint rock to share between us, Hans, but this is more than I could ever hope for." "I don't know what has happened, Greta," said Hans. "But we have enough sweets for a whole year."



6. They were excitedly collecting some when a gruff voice said, "What are you doing?" Hans and Greta looked round and saw the King himself, standing and looking at them in a most angry manner. "Do you know what has happened?" asked the King. "My castle has turned into marzipan and my best chairs have become whipped-cream walnuts. And it seems to me that it's your fault."



7. Just then another voice butted in. It came from a kindly old man, and Hans remembered that he had been in the sweet-shop when they were buying the stick of rock. "You picked up my magic wand by mistake," said the old man, who was really a clever magician.



8. So that explained it all. With a wave of his magic wand, the old man changed everything back to normal, except that he left a few small sweets for Hans and Greta. "Perhaps it is better not to have a world made only of sweets," smiled Hans.



Beautiful Paintings

Here is a jolly picture from the Wallace Collection of Beautiful Paintings and we are sure it will become a favourite of readers of "Once Upon A Time"—especially those who are cutting them out each week for scrap-books. There is no need to

say what it is all about. The artist has drawn it so cleverly that the picture "speaks for itself". You can almost hear the little dog whimpering for a share of the bone, which the big dog, although only half-awake, is holding down with one of his paws.

The Troubadour

In the olden days, stringed instruments were the most popular for making music. Rich people often had their own musician to play and sing sweet songs to them at meal-times. These musicians were called troubadours and some of them wandered around the country, playing and singing to earn a living.

By joining the dots correctly and neatly in the two puzzle pictures below, you will draw two musical instruments of the kind a wandering troubadour would play.





The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

The Country Mouse's home in danger . . . part 4. By Barbara Hayes.

STEPHANIE, the town mouse, is visiting the mayor of Nutsford to stop him from knocking down the home of Winifred, the country mouse, to make room for a road.

To impress the mayor Stephanie is wearing her best clothes and has driven up with her boyfriend, Nigel, in his grand car.

"Well, this is the trouble, Mr. Mayor, you naughty old thing," said Stephanie. "I have a distant cousin, very distant, you understand, and a bit of a poor little thing, but a cousin nevertheless, and she has had a letter from you saying that you are going to knock down her cottage to make room for a road."

"Now, as I was saying to the Duchess of Oakville yesterday, it must all be a mistake, because a sweetie-pie mayor like you would never do a naughty thing like that."

"I can quite understand that you looked at my cousin's humble little cottage and at my humble little cousin and thought that they were far less important than the road."

"But did you know that my cousin is an expert at hand-knitted jumpers and home-made cakes?"

"Now, if any grand ladies like the Duchess of Oakville had their hand-knitted jumpers and cakes held up because my cousin was upset by having to move, things could be made uncomfortable for lots of people—even mayors—couldn't they?"

Of course, Stephanie didn't know the Duchess of Oakville at all and certainly Winifred, the country mouse, had never knitted any jumpers or made any cakes for any grand ladies in her life.

But I'm afraid Stephanie wasn't above telling a few fibs, when she wanted to get her own way.

The mayor's hand shook as he poured Stephanie a cup of coffee.

"Of course your cousin's cottage won't be knocked down," he said. "When we were deciding where to build the road we just got out a ruler and drew a line across the map. But if your cousin is someone important, of course we won't disturb her home—of course not."

So Stephanie drank her coffee and looked over the mayor's shoulder as he drew a fresh line on his map. And this time the line went across fields and not over anyone's cottage at all.

Then Stephanie smiled. "Thank you, you old darling. I knew that under those stuffy robes you were a real sweetie-pie."

The mayor took Stephanie down to the car and there, of course, was Nigel.

Nigel caught a few of the golden coins he had been spinning in the air.

"Here you are," he smiled, giving them to the mayor. "Build a nice swing for the children of Nutsford and tell them that if their mayor looks after us, we will look after them."

Tiny Tim saluted as Stephanie got into the car.

And Winifred, the country mouse, who had been waiting in the car all this time, sighed with relief when she saw the triumphant look on Stephanie's face.

What a happy little group they were as they drove back towards Winifred's home.

"No one from Nutsford County Hall will ever bother you again, Winifred," smiled Stephanie.

And Winifred said: "I really am grateful, Stephanie, and to you, Nigel, and to you, Tiny Tim."

"Oh, forget it," smiled Stephanie. "But if you took my advice and dressed in grand clothes and behaved as if you thought something of yourself, people wouldn't even try to do these things to you."

But timid little Winifred sighed, "I can never change. I like my quiet little ways."

And when they reached her cottage she said, "Would you like to come in for a cup of tea and some of my home-made cakes?"

But Stephanie laughed her loud towny laugh and said:

"No thank you. I don't want any boring old cups of tea. I want to get back to town and enjoy myself amongst the bright lights. You only live once, you know."

And off they all roared.

Winifred walked to the door of her cottage with the scent of the lavender billowing about her skirts and the peace of the countryside settling round her. She was glad she wasn't going back to town. "Our Stephanie is a good sort; but I shall never understand her," she said.

A new story of the Town Mouse and Country Mouse in next week's special FREE GIFT NUMBER!

Here are the questions from the story about the Signs of the Zodiac on page 10. Can you answer them?

1. How many Signs of the Zodiac are there altogether?
2. What are the dates covered by the sign Aquarius?
3. What was the name of Ganymede's father?
4. What did Jupiter give to the King in return for his son?



Mendoza

ALI BABA and the Forty Thieves



1. Morgiana, Ali Baba's serving-maid, had discovered that instead of containing oil, thirty-nine of the forty jars in Ali Baba's courtyard each contained a hidden robber. "These men mean to harm my master," thought Morgiana as she left the courtyard and went back to the house. "They have an evil plan. How can I stop them?"



2. The oil-jars all belonged to the man who was staying as a guest in Ali Baba's house. This man had pretended to be an oil-merchant on his travels, but he was really the leader of the Forty Thieves. By now Morgiana had decided what she must do. "I will put this water on the fire and get it boiling," she said.



3. At last the water became hot enough. Morgiana took it into the courtyard to carry out her plan. She crept quietly to the big oil-jars, whipped the wooden lid off one and swiftly poured in some of the hot water.



4. From jar to jar she went, pouring hot water in every one. The hot water scalded the hidden robbers and the courtyard rang to their cries as they leapt from their hiding places as quickly as they could.



5. The robbers did not wait for any more. Still yelling they ran from Ali Baba's house as fast as they could. The noise of their shouts brought Ali Baba and his guest, the disguised robber chieftain, hurrying to the courtyard. The robber chief frowned in anger when he saw that his men had been discovered.

6. Ali Baba was bewildered. "What is happening?" he asked in great amazement. "Who are all these men?" "They are robbers who were hiding in the oil-jars," replied Morgiana. "They planned to come out when a certain signal was given and I am sure that they meant you great harm, master."



7. "And this man is no oil-merchant," Morgiana went on. "He is the leader of the robbers." She seized the robber chief's false beard and jerked it off. With his men gone, the robber chief was now very frightened. Ali Baba smiled as he watched him run off after his men. "Yes, that is the man who opened the secret cave," he said, "but, thanks to clever Morgiana, I feel sure we shall never again be troubled by the Forty Thieves." And they never were.

(Next week . . . another tale of Sinbad the Sailor.)





The WISE OLD OWL

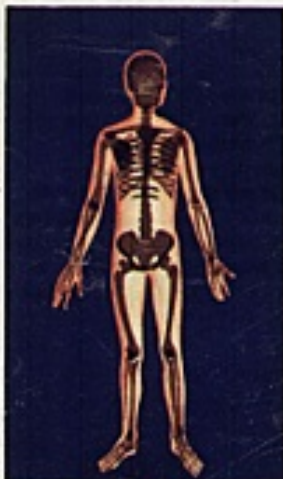
Knows all the answers

The Wise Old Owl is here to answer many interesting questions for you.



1. How far can a butterfly fly?

"Butterflies look fragile, but they are tough enough to fly many hundreds of miles over land and sea. The Painted Lady butterfly, seen in England in summer, cannot survive the English winter, so it breeds in North Africa and then flies across the sea, over a thousand miles, to England."



2. Why do we have skeletons?

"Without a hard skeleton to support us, we should not be able to stand or run about. Our skeleton is made of bone and hidden by our flesh, but some animals, like a lobster, have their skeleton outside their bodies in the form of a hard shell."



3. What is a bi-plane?

"Early aeroplanes had a framework of fabric-covered wood and many were bi-planes, with two wings, one above the other. Then all-metal planes were built and the light, strong metal wings made monoplanes, with only one wing, more practicable."



4. Why do windows in new buildings have white patches on them?
"In a new building it is often hard to tell whether windows have been put in or not. A white patch is put on the window to show that the glass is in, so that no one will break it."



5. What is a reservoir?

"A reservoir is a place where water is stored, either for use by householders or by industry. Water for domestic use is purified before it is pumped to the towns through pipes."